



HFSC's Firearms Manager Appointed Chairman of ATF Advisory Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has appointed Darrell Stein, manager of the Houston Forensic Science Center's (HFSC) Firearms Section, chairman of a new advisory board. Mr. Stein will help create and oversee a new Executive Board for the ATF's National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN.)

NIBIN is a national database that allows firearms examiners to compare ballistic evidence to link firearms to different crimes. Often, these links between crimes are not known until the comparison is made using NIBIN.

Mr. Stein, who has nearly 20 years of experience in firearms identification, has previously chaired a similar ATF advisory board. This new, external advisory board is meant to help ATF advance the NIBIN program.

"I am honored by the invitation and look forward to working with ATF and other experts in the country to advance a program designed to identify firearms used in criminal activity," Mr. Stein said.

Dr. Daniel Garner, HFSC's CEO and President, said Mr. Stein's appointment to the advisory board is further evidence of his experience and knowledge in the firearms field.

"Mr. Stein's expertise in the firearms field is well-known, and HFSC is privileged to have him heading up its Firearms Section, one of the busiest in the country," Dr. Garner

said. "His knowledge will also assist the ATF as it looks to move the NIBIN program forward."

HFSC is a local government corporation that provides forensic services to the City of Houston and other local agencies. HFSC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor of Houston and confirmed by the Houston City Council. Its management structure is designed to be responsive to a 2009 recommendation by the National Academy of Sciences that called for crime laboratories to be independent of law enforcement and prosecutorial branches of government.

HFSC currently operates in nine forensic disciplines.

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